

North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project

A Strategic Plan for managing the Federal Mitigation Fund

The **federal mitigation fund** was part of the *North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement* (SA) created to fund projects to help alleviate impacts from the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (Project) that could not be otherwise be mitigated through modification of the dams, canals, powerlines and other project features or changes in operations as provided for in the SA. These funds are provided by PacifiCorp Energy and administered solely by the Forest Service to fund projects on National Forest System and BLM administered lands within the North Umpqua Basin. It was intended that the project selection process fully engage involved or interested Federal and State agencies, Tribal governments, PacifiCorp Energy, and the public. The mitigation fund represents a unique opportunity to plan restoration projects for the future unconstrained by annual budget cycles. This opportunity brings the obligation to identify objectives to be realized once the restoration projects have been completed and the funds spent. Towards this end, it is the intent to create a **Strategic Plan** to guide future mitigation fund project development, implementation, and monitoring.

We have chosen to use a **Structured Decision Making** process to guide the development of the **Strategic Plan**. We are currently seeking refinements or “red flags” to the process listed below. The basic elements of the process involve:

- Identifying the specific impacts from the Project that require additional mitigation. (Public involvement will take place at this step so that impacts are well validated; mid-spring 2013)
- Identifying the objectives, including both the *fundamental objectives* (example - sustain anadromous fish populations in the North Umpqua River) and *means objectives* (the specific methods to obtain the fundamental objectives, such as provide spawning gravels in the upper North Umpqua River). (Public involvement will take place at this step of the process to validate the objectives of the mitigation fund are being accomplished; summer 2013).
- Develop and analyze various alternatives to best meet objectives. (Public involvement will take place to develop alternatives/projects; fall 2013).
- Decide on a list of projects (late fall 2013)
- Take action and implement identified mitigation projects in the **Strategic Plan**. Significant involvement with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); groups; individuals; State, Federal and Local agencies; and Tribal governments will be utilized to accomplish the mitigation projects in this stage.
- Report and reassess annually to respond to new information or changed conditions.

This **Strategic Plan** is not a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Individual projects that are identified in the **Strategic Plan** will require such analysis under NEPA and must be consistent with the *Umpqua National Forest Land Resource Management Forest Plan* and *Roseburg District BLM Resource Plan* as amended by the *Northwest Forest Plan*. This process is also not a reassessment of the Project license or intended to change operations of the Project facilities. The **Strategic Plan** is an opportunity to complete restoration work on the ground. It is intended to offset impacts to both terrestrial and aquatic impacts within the context of broad conservation objectives as outlined in the Project SA.

Any interested agencies, groups or individuals will have the opportunity to provide input at any time. At each step in the process, a draft of the ongoing analysis will be posted on the [Umpqua National Forest Mitigation Fund website](#) and can be e-mailed/mailed to anyone who requests it.

If you have specific refinement comments in the **Strategic Plan** development or on the **Structured Decision Making** process, please send those comments to Pam Sichting via e-mail psichting@fs.fed.us with “Strategic Plan Comments” in the subject line or by postal mail to Umpqua National Forest Attention Pam Sichting 2900 NW Stewart Parkway Roseburg, OR 97471. Comments should be received by March 1 to be useful in the next step of the Strategic Plan development.